

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 02097 101031Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 MCT-01 SS-15  
DODE-00 SY-05 CA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03  
ICA-11 PA-01 NSC-05 /081 W  
-----058737 101043Z /13

P R 100930Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 241  
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2097

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: REF, SN, UN (VAM CO 24)  
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR RESETTLEMENT IN US FOR ALLEGED HIJACKERS  
OF VAM CO 24

REF: A) SINGAPORE 1904. B) STATE 101150, C) SINGAPORE 1712,  
D) SINGAPORE 1626

1. AS REPORTED BY REFTELS, THE VIETNAMESE FREIGHTER VAM CO 24  
WAS APPARENTLY HIJACKED BY SIX CREW MEMBERS AND A PASSENGER.

2. UPON ARRIVAL AT SINGAPORE, APRIL 9, 1978, THE ALLEGED  
HIJACKERS PEACEFULLY SURRENDERED TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

3. OF THE 34 PEOPLE ABOARD VAM CO 24, 13 PASSENGERS WERE  
ACCEPTED FOR RESETTLEMENT BY AUSTRALIA, 13 WANTED TO RETURN  
TO VIETNAM (REFTEL B), AND 8 BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN  
HIJACKING WERE REFERRED TO THE EMBASSY BY THE UNHCR.

4. KWOK SIU YIN, UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN SINGAPORE REPORTED  
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TO CONOFF ON 5/6/78 THAT HE BELIEVED THE HIJACK STORY WAS A  
FABRICATION INVENTED TO ALLOW THE PEIPPLE WHO CHANGED THEIR MINDS  
ABOUT LEAVING VIETNAM TO RETURN SAFELY.

5. UNHCR HAS FORMALLY PRESENTED THE BIO DATA OF THE  
SIX CREW MEMBERS AND ONE PASSENGER (LATTER ACCOMPANIED  
BY HIS TWO YEAR OLD SON) WHO HAVE REQUESTED RESETTLE-

MENT IN THE US TO THE EMBASSY. BIO DATA HAS ALSO BEEN  
PRESENTED TO OTHER COUNTRIES FOR CONSIDERATION.

7. DEPARTMENT'S DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR  
HUMANITARIAN PAROLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 2 REFTEL B  
WOULD BE APPRECIATED. VISA FALCONS AND BIO DATA SENT  
TODAY. GOS ANXIOUS ABOUT OUTCOME OF THEIR REQUEST, HAS  
REPEATEDLY INQUIRED ABOUT THE ALLEGED HIJACKERS APPLICATION  
FOR RESETTLEMENT SINCE RECEIPT OF THE UNHCR REFERRAL.  
PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.  
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, HIGH SEAS INCIDENTS, VAM CO 24  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978SINGAP02097  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780198-0176  
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**Office:** ACTION HA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** 78 SINGAPORE 1904, 78 STATE 101150, 78 SINGAPORE 1712  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2734819  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REQUEST FOR RESETTLEMENT IN US FOR ALLEGED HIJACKERS OF VAM CO 24  
**TAGS:** SREF, EJWT, SN, UN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014